

- 1 1. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:
- 2 a television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;
- 3 a display coupled to the set-top box for displaying output from the set-top
- 4 box;
- 5 an input device suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;
- 6 a database operatively coupled to the internal programmed processor, the
- 7 database comprising a catalog of merchandise available for purchase by a
- 8 consumer; and
- 9 catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for
- 10 permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise.
- 11
- 12 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising order entry program
- 13 means, operating on the programmed processor, for permitting a consumer to
- 14 enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise.
- 15
- 16 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a swipe card reader
- 17 coupled to the programmed processor to permit the consumer to enter a swipe
- 18 card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise.
- 19
- 20 4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the input device comprises a
- 21 keyboard.
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1 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display comprises a
2 television display.

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4 6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display comprises a high
5 definition television display.

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7 7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the database resides on a
8 storage device situated within the set-top box, and further comprising a connection
9 to a catalog server, to thereby download updates of the catalog of merchandise to
10 the database.

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12 8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the database resides on a
13 catalog server, coupled to the set-top box via a cable television connection.

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15 9. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a printer coupled to
16 the set-top box.

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18 10. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for receiving
19 updates to the database on a periodic basis.

1 11. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:

2 a digital television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;

3 a high definition television display coupled to the set-top box for displaying

4 output from the set-top box;

5 a keyboard suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;

6 a storage device situated within the set-top box;

7 a database residing on the storage device and operatively coupled to the

8 internal programmed processor, the database comprising a catalog of merchandise

9 available for purchase by a consumer;

10 means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis;

11 catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for

12 permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise;

13 order entry program means, operating on the programmed processor, for

14 permitting a consumer to enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog

15 of merchandise;

16 a swipe card reader coupled to the programmed processor to permit the

17 consumer to enter a swipe card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the

18 catalog of merchandise;

19 a cable modem coupled to a catalog server, to thereby download updates

20 of the catalog of merchandise to the database; and

21 a printer coupled to the set-top box.

1 12. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:

2 a digital television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;

3 a high definition television display coupled to the set-top box for displaying

4 output from the set-top box;

5 a keyboard suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;

6 a cable modem coupled the programmed processor to access a catalog

7 server;

8 means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis

9 a storage device situated within a catalog server accessible by the set-top

10 box using the cable modem;

11 a database residing on the storage device and operatively coupled to the

12 internal programmed processor, the database comprising a catalog of merchandise

13 available for purchase by a consumer;

14 means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis;

15 catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for

16 permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise;

17 order entry program means, operating on the programmed processor, for

18 permitting a consumer to enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog

19 of merchandise;

1 a swipe card reader coupled to the programmed processor to permit the
2 consumer to enter a swipe card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the
3 catalog of merchandise; and
4 a printer coupled to the set-top box.